

Amendments to the Specification

Please insert the following headings immediately before the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 3.:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

Please insert the following heading immediately before the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 6:

2. Description of the Related Art

Please insert the following heading immediately before the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 16:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following heading immediately before the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 7:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please insert the following heading immediately before the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 11:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/255,614 filed 12/14/2000 for POLYNOMIAL BASED VIRTUAL AGE ~~ESTIMATION~~ ESTIMATION FOR REMAINING LIFETIME PREDICTION, in the names of Markus Loecher and Christian Darken, Attorney Docket No. 00P9073US; and